

SENATE BILL 3800

By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
relative to recognition of Native American Indian
Tribes, bands, groups and associations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this act is to extend state recognition with full legal rights and protections to those Indian-descended entities that have functioned in specific ways over time.

SECTION 2.

(a) An Indian tribe, band, or group is a population of people related to one another by blood through their Native American Indian ancestry and tracing their heritage to a Native American Indian tribe, band, or group indigenous to Tennessee. Petitioners must submit a petition requesting state recognition specifying what type of recognition they seek.

(b) In order to be recognized as a tribe, band, or group, the petitioner must present a list of members of the group along with proof that each of its members is a descendant recognized as a member of a historical Tennessee tribe, band, or group by means of rolls which are compiled by the federal government or other some other compelling documentation that shows the heritage; also required is a statement with the notarized signatures of the three highest ranking officers of the petitioning group; and

SECTION 3. This general assembly endorses the Confederation of Tennessee Native Tribes as the entity which will review and present for recognition any tribes, bands, and groups which seek such recognition.

(1) The Confederation of Tennessee Native Tribes is the formation of the tribes and clans of Native American Indians across the state who have joined together in one voice to represent the well-being of the Native American Indian in Tennessee; and

(2) The Confederation of Tennessee Native Tribes is originally comprised of the Remnant Yuchi Nation, the Upper Cumberland Cherokee, the Chikamaka-Cherokee Band of the South Cumberland Plateau, the Central Band of Cherokee, the Cherokee Wolf Clan, the Tanasi Council of the Faraway Cherokee, the Native Cultural Council and the American Indian Association of Millington.

SECTION 4. The general assembly recognizes for purposes of state Native American Indian recognition the following tribes, bands or groups with full legal rights and protections respectively:

Remnant Yuchi Nation

Counties: Sullivan, Carter, Greene, Hawkins, Unicoi, Johnson, and Washington

Upper Cumberland Cherokee(also known as the United Eastern Lenape Nation)

Counties: Scott, Morgan, Fentress, and Campbell

Chikamaka-Cherokee Band of the South Cumberland Plateau

Counties: Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Sequatchie, Warren, and Coffee

Central Band of Cherokee (also known as the Cherokee of Lawrence County)

1806 Congressional Reservation

Cherokee Wolf Clan

Counties: Carroll, Benton, Decatur, Henderson, Henry, Weakley, Gibson, and Madison

Tanasi Council of the Far Away Cherokee

Counties: Shelby, Dyer, Gibson, Humphreys, and Perry

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.